IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 69-114.

Please amend Claim 1 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A solid state electrical switch for controlling a electrical load, comprising:

a first terminal;

a second terminal;

a semiconductor switch coupled by said first terminal and said second terminal to form with said electrical load a series circuit across said AC power source, said semiconductor switch becoming conducting in response to receiving a control signal at a control terminal, said solid state electrical switch being in an "on" state when said semiconductor switch is conducting and in an "off" state when said semiconductor switch is not conducting; and

a control circuit providing said control signal, said control circuit being coupled to said first and second terminals in a parallel configuration with said semiconductor switch, wherein said control circuit has no current path in said "off" state.

Please add newly presented Claims 115-133 as follows:

115. A solid state electrical switch as in Claim 1, wherein said solid state electrical switch is provided as a component of a multipoint random control system, said multipoint random control system comprising:

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an optocoupler coupled to said solid state electrical switch and to a signal bus, said optocoupler receiving an electrical signal from said signal bus to provide an optically isolated output signal as said control signal at said semiconductor switch; and

a plurality of devices coupled to the signal bus, each device being capable of providing as output signals of said devices said control signal to.

116. A solid state electrical switch as in Claim 115, wherein said signal bus include a common ground signal relative to said electrical signal.

117. A solid state electrical switch as in Claim 115, wherein said signal bus provides separate common ground signals relative to said electrical signal.

118. A solid state electrical switch as in Claim 1, further comprising an initialization circuit having a first charging time constant and a first discharging time constant, wherein said first charging time constant being less than said first discharging time constant, wherein when said solid state electrical switch is in said "on" state, a first capacitor is charged according to said first charging time constant, and such that, when said "on" state is interrupted by loss of power in said AC power source, said first capacitor discharges at said first discharging time constant, thereby temporarily preserving a memory of said "on" state.

119. A solid state electrical switch as in Claim 118, wherein said initialization circuit further includes a second discharging time constant less than said first discharging time constant, said second discharging time constant providing a discharge of said first capacitor to reset initialization circuit from said "on" state to said "off" state.

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120. A solid state electrical switch as in Claim 118, wherein said initialization circuit further comprises:

a diode coupled to a first terminal of said first capacitor, a second terminal of said first capacitor being coupled to a ground terminal; and

a resistor coupled between said cathode of said diode and said ground terminal.

121. A solid state electrical switch as in Claim 118, wherein said first capacitor comprises an electrolytic capacitor and a non-polarized capacitor coupled in parallel.

122. A solid state electrical switch as in Claim 42, wherein said metallic surface is coated with a dielectric material.

123. A solid state electrical switch as in Claim 9, wherein said touch panel is coupled to said control circuit through a resistor serially connected with a capacitor.

124. A solid state electrical switch as in Claim 9, wherein said touch panel comprises a resistive surface.

125. A solid state electrical switch as in Claim 9, wherein said touch panel comprises a resistive surface and a dielectric material coated on said resistive surface, thereby providing said touch panel a capacitance.

126. A solid state electrical switch as in Claim 9, wherein said electrical signal being provided as a result of said external agent touching said touch panel with a gloved hand.

127. A solid state electrical switch as in Claim 1, further comprising a light-emitting material.

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128. A solid state electrical switch as in Claim 127, wherein said light-emitting material comprises a phosphate.

129. A solid state electrical switch as in Claim 127, wherein said light-emitting material comprises sulfur.

130. A solid state electrical switch as in Claim 6 further comprising a semiconductor element connected in parallel with said capacitor, said device having a conduction threshold voltage such that when said rectified signal attains a voltage exceeding said conduction threshold voltage, said semiconductor element becomes conducting, thereby discharging said capacitor and generating said control signal.

131. A solid state electrical switch as in Claim 130, wherein said conduction threshold voltage is provided by a breakdown voltage of a transistor..

132. A solid state electrical switch as in Claim 131, wherein said transistor comprises a bipolar transistor.

133. A solid state electrical switch as in Claim 15, wherein said gain circuit has a breakdown voltage, such that when said rectified signal attaining a voltage exceeding said breakdown voltage, said gain circuit becomes conducting, thereby coupling said rectified signal to said control terminal.

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